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## BRITISH CARDIAC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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The Government's announcement on the Calman proposals is disappointing: it does not set targets for an expansion of consultant numbers or identify extra funding. The possible expansion of staff grade appointments and a relaxation in the control of senior house officer posts may lead to greater staffing at lower grades because the specialist training grades have shorter training periods. However, there will be less time available for service work and an increase in protected training time. Standards of care of patients and of research and development will be maintained and enhanced only by a vigorous and sustained expansion of consultant staffing. The British Cardiac Society will continue to exert pressure centrally but it is of the utmost importance that all cardiologists and cardiac surgeons support these developments in their own units. Any proposal that leaves units with inadequate consultant staffing for patient care, training, and research and development must be resisted.

The BCS Council will be keeping developments under review on a national basis and is keen to help colleagues if any difficulties develop locally. Please write to the President about any concerns you have.

### The British Pacing and Electrophysiology Group

Anthony Nathan writes: "The British Pacing and Electrophysiology Group (BPEG) is delighted to continue its participation at the British Cardiac Society Annual General Meeting and this year will hold a symposium on "How to Treat Difficult Ventricular Arrhythmias", with the aim of enlightening the audience on how to handle different forms of ventricular tachycardia. All are welcome to attend."

"The Annual General Meeting of BPEG will take place on Friday 1 July, 1994, at the Royal College of Physicians, London, and will last all day. The scientific sessions will be chaired by Dr Janet McComb; and Professor Lukas Kapenberger of Lausanne will give the guest lecture on "Pacing in cardiomyopathy". A mini-symposium on the mechanisms and treatment of atrial fibrillation will follow and a review of the current

relevant studies on bradycardia and tachycardia will also be presented."

"Modernisation and revision of the pace-maker registry has continued and we hope that by the time this newsletter is published a new user interface will be available based upon *Microsoft Windows* rather than the previous text-based screens. The implantable cardioverter defibrillator registry has been running hand-in-hand with this and will become part of the European Registry of Implantable Defibrillators network. Hart-Line, a fax information service on arrhythmias, was launched in December and is proving popular. Any further information on this or any other topic can be obtained from the BPEG offices: tel 071 637 0016, fax 071 323 5867 (9 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5AH)."

### British Association for Cardiac Rehabilitation

Hugh Bethell writes: "The British Association for Cardiac Rehabilitation has now become a reality. The inaugural meeting was held in September 1992; a meeting to adopt the constitution in April 1993; and, following election of a committee, the first AGM was held in September 1993. The Association is multidisciplinary and members include cardiologists, physicians, general practitioners, nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists, dietitians, and exercise physiologists. The aims of the association are to provide a forum for all professionals concerned with the rehabilitation of cardiac patients, to promote the widespread provision of cardiac rehabilitation, and to encourage high standards of practice. There is a quarterly newsletter and an annual scientific and educational meeting is planned." The association would benefit greatly from the support of cardiologists and we hope that all those specialists interested in rehabilitation will join. There is a small annual membership fee (£25). For further details, membership forms and the constitution please write to BACR, c/o Action Heart, Wellesley House, 117 Wellington Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1UB.

### European Society of Cardiology

Phillip Poole-Wilson writes: "The Education and Training Programme at the European Heart House includes the following programme:

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| 19-21<br>May       | Evolution of myocardial viability: assessment of revascularisation after myocardial infarction |
| 9-11<br>June       | The syndrome of angina in normal coronary arteries: pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment   |
| 22-24<br>September | Endocarditis: prophylaxis, diagnosis, and management   |
| 13-15<br>October   | Management of patients with automatic defibrillators: indications, implantation, follow up     |

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| 20-22<br>October  | Management of myocardial infarction: early detection, pre-hospital management thrombolysis and other reperfusion therapy, and follow up |
| 24-26<br>November | Integrated approach to interventional cardiology: indications for different devices and practical instruction for their use             |
| 9-11<br>December  | Primary and secondary prevention of coronary artery disease: a message for the Christmas period.  |

The cost for attending these programmes ranges from Fr 3000 to Fr 4000 depending on hotel accommodation. The price includes the scientific programme, bus transport, hotel, meals, and coffee breaks. The price does not include travel. The meetings usually last three days. The programmes are of high quality and low cost. If you are interested please write to ECOR, Meeting Services, c/o Acte-Les Espaces Delta-BP 037, 80 Route des Lucioles, 06901 Sophia Antipolis, France."

### Other news

It is sad to record the death of Dr J B Lowe who was a pioneer in invasive cardiology. A New Zealander, he trained in medicine in Edinburgh and in cardiology at the National Heart Hospital with the late Paul Wood. He was appointed cardiologist to Green Lane Hospital in Auckland in 1953 and together with Sir Brian Barratt-Boyes and the late Sir Douglas Robb he founded and developed cardiology at Green Lane to a pre-eminent position in Australasia. He will be remembered with great respect and affection by the generations of cardiologists whom he trained.

D JOHN PARKER  
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## NOTICES

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The 1994 Annual Meeting of the **British Cardiac Society** will take place at the Riviera Centre, Torquay from 17 to 20 May.

The **Second International Symposium on Fibrinogen and Cardiovascular Disease** organised by the Royal College of Physicians will take place in Edinburgh on 1 and 2 November 1994. Further details are available from Royal College of Physicians Education, Audit and Research Department, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JQ (tel: 031-225 7324, fax: 031-220 3939).